REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Applicants note at the outset that the previously filed response in this matter (an April 13, 2005) contained a typographical error and the language "wherein each interactive node is arranged to allow a user to input data" was mistakenly reproduced in the response as "wherein each interactive node is arranged to allow *an agent* to input data." Applicants apologize for this inadvertent error, and note that the correct language is reproduced herein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,356 to Jawahar. In particular, the Examiner finds that, with regard to claim 1, Jawahar discloses all of the claimed limitations. Applicants have reviewed the reference with care, paying particular attention to the passages cited, and are compelled to respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a computer apparatus for implementing a workflow. As known in the art and described in the specification, a workflow is defined by a plurality of activities and the sequence in which these activities must be performed. Some of these activities are for interfacing with the user of the workflow to solicit data therefrom, and are referred to as interactive nodes in the claims. Because sometimes the user of the workflow does not follow the sequence (the most common example being when the user goes back to a previous activity instead of a next activity in the sequence), the computer executing the workflow can crash. To avoid this problem, the claimed invention analyses the data that is received from the user at a particular interactive node to determine with certainty the interactive node with which the user has actually interacted. A preferred method for analyzing the data input by the user is comparing it with the data that is expected for each interactive node in the entire sequence of activities that defines the overall workflow, and thus determining to which of these interactive nodes the data input by the user belongs to or is associated with. Applicants have presently amended claim 1 to

make the above clearer and thus aid the reader in distinguishing the invention claimed from the methods and systems disclosed in the cited prior art. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally filed specification at, *inter alia*, page 1 ll. 20-22, and page 7 l. 27 – page 8 l. 7.

Jawahar, on the other hand, is not at all concerned with workflows, but rather with two remote persons (an agent and a user) accessing the same web page at the same time in such a way that the agent assists the user in interacting with the web page (most typically, assisting the user to purchase something through that web page). The Examiner cites to Jawahar's disclosure of a script that runs on an agent's computer presenting different information to the agent while the agent interacts with a remote user (e.g. col. 13, ll. 10-28). However, this script has nothing in common with a workflow process that is composed of activities that must be performed in a certain sequence. Indeed, the description of the agent script that immediately follows the passage cited by the Examiner (i.e. at col. 13, ll. 29-53) makes it clear that this script (displayed in frame 198 in Fig. 6 of Jawahar) is truly nothing more than an actual text script "such as a prepared script to be read to a customer." (col. 13 ll. 36-37) This script may be modified (apparently on the fly) to be more product or customer specific, but it nonetheless consists of nothing more than information to be divulged to the customer by the agent, and has nothing in common with a workflow process. At most, the agent script may be understood as also encompassing frame 200, which displays various links to other web pages that the agent may choose to forward to the client. However, this is a completely voluntary action on the part of the agent, and has nothing to do a defined sequence in which certain activities *must* be performed: "If the agent wants to display these answers to the customer, the agent can select the link, which causes the web page to be transmitted to the customer's browser application." (col. 13 ll. 48-50)

Furthermore, there is also no disclosure in Jawahar of analyzing data input by the user in the manner claimed. The Examiner cites to col. 16, ll. 23-39, wherein Jawahar teaches that data showing which web pages were visited by the user, in which sequence, for how long, etc. is analyzed to determine the effectiveness of the arrangement of the web pages and perhaps to rearrange them so as to be more effective, easier to find, etc. However, it is important to note that the data thus analyzed by Jawahar is not data input by the user but rather data collected by a monitoring process that runs on the user's computer and checks for a tag in each web page viewed by the user. If a page is tagged, the monitoring process retrieves information regarding

the web page that is embedded in the web page but invisible to the user (col. 14 l. 56 – col. 15 l. 2) and downloads it to a server for analysis. There is nothing in Jawahar that can be understood as teaching the analysis of data that is input by the user into any of these web pages and, should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully invite him to cite the precise column and lines where Jawahar discloses this limitation, in accordance with the requirements posited by 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)2.

In view of all of the preceding, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over Jawahar, and request that the Examiner kindly reconsider and pass the claim to issue.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1. In view of the above discussion, it is submitted that claim 1 is allowable, and claims 2-6 are therefore also allowable because they include the same novel limitations as claim 1.

Claim 7 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 1 and has been similarly amended here. Applicants therefore submit that the above discussion of claim 1 is equally relevant to and dispositive of the patentability of amended claim 7 over Jawahar.

Claims 8-9 depend from claim 7, and for this reason Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-9 are also allowable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.
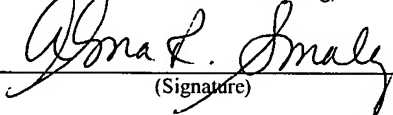
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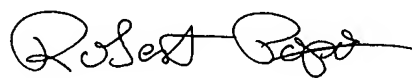(Name of Person Transmitting)

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